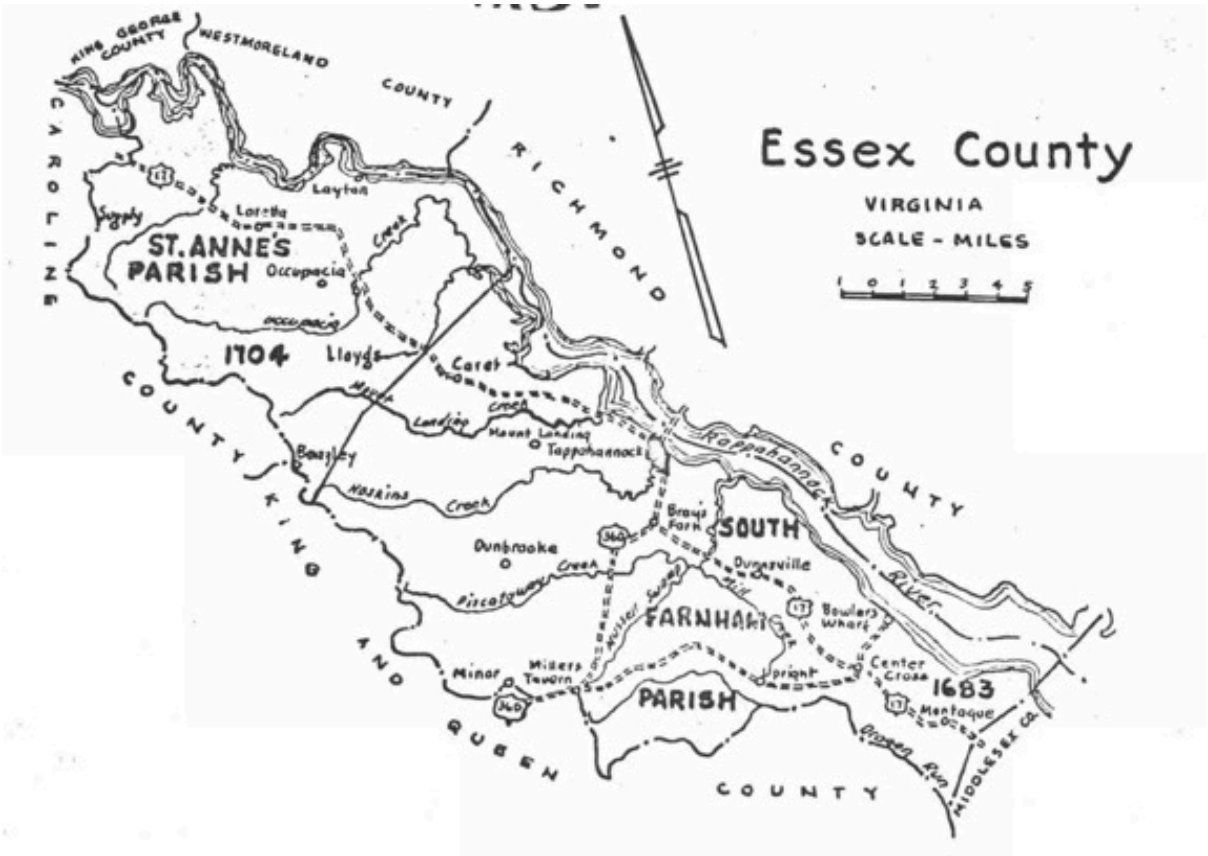
The Brizendines
of Old Rappahannock and Essex Counties, Virginia Colony

By Steve Malone



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Acknowledgments

When I started researching the Brizendines, I found through FamilySearch that **Dane M. Chapman, M.D.** had likewise recently been researching them. I reached out to share my findings, and he likewise reciprocated and provided valuable comments and corrections. He provided a great sounding board with which to gauge how well I had explained my interpretations of available facts.

Early in this research I came across a book written in 2023 by **Michael J. Vaughn** about the Williamsons who had lived in South Farnum Parish, Essex County, Virginia Colony, which happened to mention some early Brizendines as well. I managed to find his contact information and he very graciously agreed to lend a hand. He provided extensive help with records research, and shared analysis that he had already done regarding individuals and documents of key importance. He also, where needed, challenged my logic and conclusions, and pointed out minor errors of spelling, grammar and fact. His help was a very welcome tailwind that made this project a very enjoyable and rewarding endeavor.

A simple thank you is due to **Wesley Pippenger** and **Casey Allen Brizendine** for their small contributions to this project.

Cover Image

The image used on the front cover is from http://www.gilliamsofvirginia.org/Essex/Essex.html.

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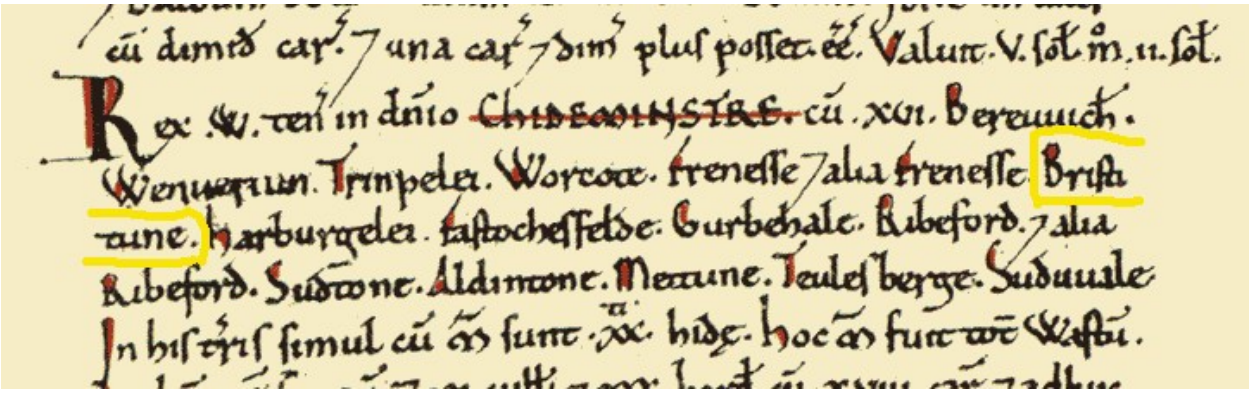
This document is hereby placed in the public domain, hoping that doing so
will help other researchers to discover clues that can help to solve their own family mysteries.

Phonetic Spellings

How many ways are there to spell Brizendine phonetically? Here's a sampling from this research:

Bresindine	**Brisindine**	**Brissodine**	**Brizentine**
Bresendine	**Brissendine**	**Brisstedine**	**Brizsendent**
Bresentine	**Brissindan**	**Brissten**	**Brysindine**
Brisden	**Brissindin**	**Brizandine**	**Bryssindine**
Brisendine	**Brissindon**	**Brizenden**	
Brisindin	**Brissindine**	**Brizendine**	

Name Origin?


cū dimid car. 7 una car 7 dim plus posset. ee. Valuit. V. sol. m. II. sol.
Rex W. ten in dnio Chidesmunstre. cū. xvi. Berewich.
Wenuertun. Trinpelei. Worcore. treneste 7 alia treneste. Brista
tune. Harburgelei. tastochesfelde. Burbehale. Rubeford. 7 alia
Rubeford. Sudtone. Aldmone. Mertune. Teulesberge. Sudmule
In his tris simul cū ōs sunt. xx. hidę. hoc ō fuit tē Wasti.

From the 1086 *Domesday Book* for Worcestershire, England, page 1.
It includes the hamlet of Brissatune.
Is this the source of the surname Brizendine?[1]

[1] From *https://opendomesday.org/book/worcestershire/01/*, accessed 22 Nov 2024.

Forward

This book covers the early colonial period in the vicinity of modern-day Essex County, Virginia, up to and including the Revolutionary War, and the known participation thereof by the Brizendines. While many early records there are extant for the time period of interest to us, marriage records are not. They typically are the best way to estimate years of birth (for a first marriage), using the formula of marriage year minus 21 for males (when they came of age) and marriage year minus 18 for females (when they typically were allowed to marry with parental permission). The exceptions to these two rules were males whose father had died, and who needed to provide for their mother and siblings; and females whose father had died, and who might be married a year or two early to avoid tempting any prospective stepfathers (or to avoid being an additional burden that might make the widow a less attractive mate, or worsen her struggle to merely survive).

Lacking marriage records, a good substitute means of approximating year of birth is the date that a male first appears in public records. The year of the first record minus 21 years is reasonably accurate. For a first marriage, his wife would be assumed to be three years younger, which also is generally a good approximation.

Deeds and court records are generally considered primary source records, since there are no more direct records available, unless your ancestor was thoughtful enough to have saved their originals. Some of these early records are actually secondary sources, because they are copies of the originals, or later transcriptions. While they are nearly as accurate, it is possible that small errors have been made in transcription that can obscure the truth. The closer you can get to an original document, the better.

The accuracy of source records is important, as it assures that any logical inferences are based upon as solid a foundation of fact as possible. That greatly increases the odds that any correctly inferred speculations are most likely accurate. Where speculations have been made, it will be stated clearly in the text that follows.

Part of the research that follows is only possible because of research that I previously had performed, which included the Williamsons. It is summarized in a book that I recently wrote about the Roddens who lived in Essex County.[2] They and the Williamsons lived in the same neighborhood as the Brizendines, and like the Brizendines, the Roddens had also intermarried with descendants of Thomas Williamson the Elder. That book also utilized the above described year-of-birth estimation techniques. These more realistic dates of birth are far more useful than the often wild-eyed guesses employed by others, and in this research make it possible to determine that correct relationships between the Williamsons and Brizendines are being inferred.

[2] *The Roddens of Essex County, Virginia Colony and Mecklenburg County, North Carolina: Plus the Bakers, Blanchards, Byroms, Hanks and Williamsons* by Steve Malone (2023).

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Chapter 1: Introduction

The early families discussed here lived in South Farnham Township, Essex County, Virginia, north of Dragon Swamp and south of Piscataway Creek, on the south side of the Rappahannock River, which is generally south and southeast of Tappahannock. They probably settled near the top of the divide between the two former watercourses, likely in the vicinity of Tappahannock-Essex County Airport, where graves of some descendants of Richard Brizendine, Senior were relocated to make way for the airport.[3]

Tappahannock is the oldest town and county seat of Essex County. It was founded due to its proximity to Hobbs Hole, located adjacent to 800 acres owned by Captain Richard Hobbs ('hole' denotes that the area was deep enough for a ship to drop anchor).

The first and only record of any Brizendine found in the Virginia Colonial records in Ancestry.com's card catalog was for William Brissenden, who in 1636 was corresponding to the colony from Portsmouth, England, about the condition of the ship *Black George*.[4] No record was found to connect this person to the Brizendines found in records of Essex County, Virginia.

The first public record of any Brizendine in Old Rappahannock County (now Essex County), was Richard Brissindan in 1691, who purchased land south of Piscataway Creek from Thomas Cooper.[5] Yet there are stories circulating, similar to the following, which claim an earlier Brizendine presence there:

> *"When Isaac Richard Brissenden was born in 1632, in Essex, Virginia, United States, his father, James Brisenden, was 22 and his mother, Alice Chauklyn, was 24. He married Mary Davis in 1650, in Essex, Virginia, United States. They were the parents of at least 1 son. He died on 24 June 1694, in his hometown, at the age of 62.*
>
> *"When William Temple Brizendine was born on 1 January 1650, in Essex, Virginia, British Colonial America, his father, Isaac Richard Brissenden, was 18 and his mother, Mary Davis, was 18."*

The author of the above (who understandably used a pseudonym)[6] is claiming 60 years of Brizendines that have no corresponding presence in public records to establish them as fact, as will be proven in the pages to come. He or she also claims that William Temple Brizendine's parents were 18 years old at the time of his birth, and that his father was alive when he married.

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[3] *https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2645012/brizendine-family-cemetery?*, accessed 11 Nov 2024.
[4] Ancestry.com, *Virginia, U.S., Colonial Records, 1607-1853* (incorrectly indexed as relating to the ship Hope). Accessed 13 Nov 2024.
[5] *Virginia, Old Rappahannock County, Deeds and Wills transcript, 1692-1695,* page 15 (original), page 14 (transcript), FHL microfilm #007644479, image 86 of 228.
[6] From *https://www.facebook.com/caseybrizendine78/*, from a post dated 27 Nov 2021 by "Brizendine Genealogy," accessed 1 Nov 2024.

In that era, pretty much the ONLY instance where a man married before the age of 21 was if he was an orphan, and then only if he had the means to support a wife.

He also claims an ancestor named Isaac Richard Brissenden, who may be a partial approximation of the Richard Brissindan found in Essex County in 1691. But the name of the former appears to be a chimera, who was likely blended with Isaac Brissinden of Kensington, a person for whom there is record that he had emigrated from England to Barbados or Jamaica in March 1682.[7] It appears someone has grafted Richard's head onto Isaac's body, or vice versa, despite there being no records to connect these two men, or any valid reason to do so.

There are several records of one or more Richard Brizendines in Essex County between 1691 and 1744. None includes the given name of Isaac, or even a middle initial. It is sufficient to say that the contents of both of the quoted paragraphs above are utter nonsense, with the exception that Richard Brizendine (and not Isaac Richard Brizendine) did die on 24 Jun 1694 in Essex County.[8] What that author has produced is a Brizendine mythology, not a fact-based family history.

Whoever authored the above didn't bother to check their history. The area that now includes present day Essex County changed jurisdiction as follows:[9]

1. It was originally part of Charles River County, from 1634 to 1643.
2. It was part of York County from 1643 to 1651.
3. It was part of Lancaster County from 1651 to 1656.
4. It was part of Old Rappahannock County from 1656 to 1692.
5. Essex County was created in 1692. It went through several boundary changes over the years, but the area that the Brizendines lived in was always within the confines of the present-day boundaries of Essex County.

There are extant records of the area within present-day Essex County from at least 1656 on (sometimes earlier). Yet there is no mention of any Brizendine in those first 35 years of records. Anything claimed by that author prior to 1691 is false and likely fabricated: they aren't facts, at best they are worthless factoids. The chapter that follows will attempt to identify as many verifiable facts as possible for the Brizendine's during their first 70 years in Essex County, and thus create a solid foundation for setting the record straight on who they were and how they were related to one another.

[7] *The Complete Book of Emigrants in Bondage, 1614-1775* by Peter Wilson Coldham (1998), page 99.
[8] *Virginia, Essex County, Court Orders, Book 7,* page 196, FHL microfilm #007673131, image 481 of 521.
[9] From *Newberry Library's Atlas of Historical County Boundaries, Virginia, https://digital.newberry.org/ahcb/map/map.html#VA*, accessed 1 Nov 2024.

Chapter 2: Brizendine Timeline

In the timeline that follows, facts are shown in normal text and are fully cited in the footnotes. Analysis and speculation is shown in **bold text**, and key points are **underlined in bold**. Analysis of the most important findings from this timeline will be discussed separately in *Chapter 3: Timeline Analysis.*

The first transaction below (in 1691) took place in Old Rappahannock County, Virginia Colony. All other transactions took place in Essex County, Virginia Colony, which was formed in 1692. Nearly all of the following transactions took place in Essex County, and by people who lived there. Locations in these timeline records other than Essex County are underlined to call attention to them.

In the text that follows, Brizendine's are shown in red text, Williamsons are shown in blue text, and Akers/Acres in green text, since these three families very clearly had intermarried.

1691 **Richard Brissindan** buys from **Thomas Cooper, Senior** for a thousand pounds of tobacco and "divers other causes." The size of the property is not given. Adjacent property owners were **George Tomer**, **Arthur Hodge**. Witnesses were **Richd Covington**, and **Francis Browne**.[10]

Based upon this deed, we know that Richard was born before 1670. A 1708 court order implies that he had a son born around 1687 (possibly as late as 1690), so he was likely born no later than 1666.

1693 The estate of **Thomas Cooper, Senior**, deceased in 1691 brought a suit regarding 300 pounds of tobacco against **Richard Brissindin**. Judgment was for the plaintiff, and Richard was ordered to pay court costs.

1693 A case brought by the estate of **Thomas Cooper** against **Richard Brissindin** was dismissed.[11]

1693 **Thomas Cooper** (presumably the son of Senior) brought suit against **Richard Brisindin** for four hundred fifty pounds of [unreadable] tobacco and cask by two bills under his hand. Judgment for plaintiff, and Richard was ordered to pay court costs.[12]

[10] *Virginia, Old Rappahannock County, Deeds and Wills transcript, page 15 (original),* page 14 (transcript), FHL microfilm #007644479, image 86 of 228.
[11] *Virginia, Essex County, Court Orders, Volume 1, Part 1*, page 94, FHL microfilm #007673131, image 430 of 521.
[12] *Virginia, Essex County, Court Orders, Volume 1, Part 1*, page 109, FHL microfilm #007673131, image 437 of 521.

1694 **Mary Brissindine** asks court to be exempted from the levies of her husband, **Richard Brissindine** who **died 24 June last past**.[13]

1702 In the will of **Thomas Watkins**, **Will Brissodine**, his godson, is bequeathed a yearling cow.[14]

Virginia law at the time allowed inheritance of land at age 16,[15] but you had to be 21 years old to buy land. 16 was also the age at which you could be pressed into militia duty, and when you could be taxed for personal property. In this record, William was likely 16 years old, and thus born in 1686.

1704 [No Brizendine appears on the Essex County quit rents roll.[16]]

1708 **Richard Cooper** brought an account of debt against **Wm. Brisstedine**. It was dropped for failing to prosecute.[17]

1708 **James Akers** gifted four cattle to his daughter **Anne Akers**. Witnessed by **John Wattkins**, **Mary "M" Brysindine** and **William "X" Bryssindine**.[18]

These two 1708 court orders suggest that William had just turned 21 years of age, and his future father-in–law was providing a dower for marrying his daughter. Mary was almost certainly the widow of Richard Brizendine.

The fact of Thomas Watkins' gift to Richard Brizendine's son, and that John Watkins signed the dower deed along with Richard's widow and eldest son, points to a significant likelihood that his widow may have been a Watkins, as it makes sense that an uncle would be watching out for the welfare of his nephew after the death of a brother-in-law.

1715 **William Brisden** appears on the Essex County quit rents roll.[19]

It appears that he had begun to pay taxes for property inherited from his father, since there is no record of him purchasing property before this date.

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[13] *Virginia, Essex County, Court Orders, Book 7,* page 196, FHL microfilm #007673131, image 481 of 521.
[14] *Virginia, Essex County, Wills, Book 13*, page 30, FHL microfilm #007642293, image 34 of 446.
[15] *Virginia Genealogical Society*, The Age of Tithables, https://www.vgs.org/members-only-pages/virtual-vigr/glad-you-asked-that/the-age-of-tithables/, accessed 16 Nov 2024.
[16] *1704 Essex County, Virginia Quit Rents Roll*, transcribed by Jeff Moore, https://genealogytrails.com/vir/essex/1704rentroll.html, accessed 2 Nov 2024.
[17] *Virginia, Essex County, Court Orders, Volume 2*, page 402, FHL microfilm #007856404, image 544 of 550.
[18] *Virginia, Essex County, Deeds, Book 13*, page 128, FHL microfilm #007645182, image 76 of 234.
[19] *1715 Essex County, Virginia Quit Rents Roll*, transcribed by J. T. (undated), https://genealogytrails.com/vir/essex/1715rentroll_R2.html, accessed 2 Nov 2024.

1717 **Major Brissten** is listed as receiving payment from the estates of the father and uncle of **Colonel Francis Gouldware** for an obligation of **Col. Gouldware**.[20]

1718 **Richard Brizsendent** filed an action against **Owen Owens**, which was dismissed.[21]

1719 **Mary Acres**, **John Williamson** and **Wm. Brissindon** posted bond for the estate of **James Acres**.[22]

1721 **Richard Brizendine's** wife is **Mary**, per a court order.[23]

A 1733 deed, Richard's 1743 estate and the estimated ages of sons which can be inferred from public records, strongly suggest this was the son of the Richard who first appears in public records in 1691, and the brother of William. The 1718 record was likely this person - Richard Brizendine, Junior, and thus he was probably born no later than 1697.

1722 **Richard Brissendine** buys from **James Bradberry** (40 acres). Adjacent property owner **Samuel Green**. Witnessed by **David Stott** and **Mary Einat**(?). [24]

1725 **Wm Brissindine** was security in a suit by **John Johnson** against **Mary Acre.**[25]

1728 **William Brizenden** buys from **John Williamson** (100 acres). Adjacent property owners were **Thomas Williamson**, **Margaret Edmondson**, and **Robert Akers**. Witnessed by **James Coughland**, **John "I" Crow**, **Thomas "T" Coats**.[26]

1729 **William Brizendine** dies. Wife **Ann** executor and **Richard Brizendine** witness. **Evan Davis** and **Richard Brizendine** helped post the bond.[27]

1730 **Richard Brizendine** buys from **John Hall** 90 acres adjoining **Nathaniel Newble** and **Sarah Craft**. Witnessed by **Isaac Hudson**, **John George**, and **Edward "B" Bomer**.[28]

1732 **Richard Brizandine** sells his 90-acre Hall property to **James Webb**. Witnesses were **James Collicoat**, **William Collicoat** and **Saml Green**. His wife did not sign.[29]

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[20] *Virginia, Essex County, Wills, Book 3*, page 115, FHL microfilm #007645970, image 76 of 592.
[21] *Virginia, Essex County, Court Orders, Book 5*, page 153, FHL microfilm #008358876, image 119 of 787.
[22] *Virginia, Essex County, Court Orders, Book 5*, page 343, FHL microfilm #008358876, image 221 of 787.
[23] *Virginia, Essex County, Court Orders, Book 5*, page 638, FHL microfilm #008358876, image 368 of 787.
[24] *Virginia, Essex County, Deeds, Book 17*, page 38, FHL microfilm #007642293, image 59 of 497.
[25] *Virginia, Essex County, Court Orders, Book 7*, page 121, FHL microfilm #008151848, image 88 of 601.
[26] *Virginia, Essex County, Deeds, Book 18*, page 352, FHL microfilm #007645202, image 216 of 497.
[27] *Virginia, Essex County, Court Orders, Book 7*, page 280, FHL microfilm #08151848, image 195 of 601.
[28] *Virginia, Essex County, Deeds, Book 19*, page 220, FHL microfilm #007645202, image 138 of 250.
[29] *Virginia, Essex County, Deeds, Book 19*, page 372, FHL microfilm #007645202, image 215 of 250.

1734 **Richard Brisindine** and his wife **Elizabeth** to **James Webb**, his 40-acre Bradberry property. Witnesses were **Richd Bush**, **Michael "M" Waters** and **Thos "+" Gresham**.[30]

1734 **Robert Akers** to **John Williamson**, 100 acres adjoining lands of **William Brisendine**, **Elizabeth St. John** (formerly called **Days**), **Margott Edmondson**. Witnesses were **Tho. Edmondson**, **John Edmondson**, and **Phill Parr Edmondson**.[31]

1738 **Ann Davis** wrote her will naming as heirs her children **Mary Brizendine**, **Franks**, **Elssa** and **Rachel** (surname not specified). All were minors, except Mary. **Mary Brizentine** was executrix. **Thomas "T" Kidd** and **Eliza "e" Kidd** were witnesses.[32]

1738 **Thomas Williamson** and **Jane** his wife to **Robert Akers**, 40 acres adjoining property of **John Cox**. Witnesses were **Thomas "T" Kidd**, **Thomas Cox** and **Mary "X" Bresindine**.[33]

1739 Procession record: The line between **John Williamson Jun'r** (a 1761 deed establishes that his wife was **Alice Brizendine**) and **Mary Brisendine** in the presence of **John Davis** & **John Roden** (**John Williamson, Junior's** brother-in-law).

1739 Procession record: The line between **Mary Brisendine** & **William Williamson jun'r** in the presence of **John Williamson**. Other abutting neighbors were **Abraham St. John** and **James Turner**.[34]

1741 **Richard Brisendine** buys from **John Baylor** (100 acres at the mouth of a branch of the Dragon Swamp). No adjoining property owners were noted. Witnesses were **Benja Fisher**, **Henry Crutcher**, **Wm "+" Hamer** and **Thos Crutcher**.[35]

1741 **Mary "+" Brizendine** (likely William's daughter) and **Mary "+" Williamson** were witnesses to a deed for 40 acres of land from **Robert Akers** (neighbor of **William Brizendine** in 1729) to **William Fitzjeffries**.[36]

1742 **Richard Brizandine** buys from **Robert Leverett** and **Ann** his wife, 100 acres on a branch of Dragon Swamp. Adjoining property owners were **William Cheyney**, **John Cox**, **Major John Baylor**. Witnesses were **Robt "I" Leveritt**, **Benja Fisher**, **Thos Cox**, **Steven "ƨ" Stevens** and **Charles "ɻ" Dobyns**.[37]

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[30] *Virginia, Essex County, Deeds, Book 20*, page 140, FHL microfilm #007645203, image 89 of 394.
[31] *Virginia, Essex County, Deeds, Book 20*, page 212, FHL microfilm #007644506, image 228 of 750.
[32] *Virginia, Essex County, Wills, Book 6*, page 149, FHL microfilm #007645971 image 157 of 588.
[33] *Virginia, Essex County, Deeds, Book 21*, page 438, FHL microfilm #00765203, image 385 of 394.
[34] *Virginia, Essex County, Church Records, Vestry Book, South Farnum Parish, 1739 to 1779*, page 12, FHL microfilm #007898793, image 11 of 81.
[35] *Virginia, Essex County, Deeds, Book 22*, page 275, FHL microfilm #007644507, image 293 of 459.
[36] *Virginia, Essex County, Deeds, Book 22*, page 315, FHL microfilm #007645507, image 333 of 459.
[37] *Virginia, Essex County, Deeds, Book 22*, page 224: FHL microfilm #007645204, image 132 of 241.

1743 **Mary Brizendine** handles the estate of her mother, **Ann Davis**, whose will was written in 1738. Ann's other children, all minors, were **Franks**, **Elssa** and **Rachel**. **Thomas "T" Kidd** and **Mary "X" Brisendine** posted bond.[38]

1743 The lands of **John Williamson, Junior** and **Mary Brizendine** were processioned one after the other.[39]

1743 **James** and **Mary Webb** to **Thomas Newble**, 180 acres on the north side of Dragon Swamp originally purchased from **Samuel Green**, except 5 acres for **Sarah Green** bounded by **Lowry Crowther**, and 40 acres adjoining said tract purchased from **Richard Brizenden** and **Elizabeth** his wife. Adjacent property owners were **Thomas Crow**, **William Cheyney** and **Bridgast**. Witnesses were **Lawry Crowther**, **Thos Brooke** and **George "Z" Newbill**.[40]

1743 Processioned ye land of **Richd Bresendined** in the presence of **John Cox** and **Thos Cox**.[41]

1743 **Richard Brizendine's** will:[42]
Baylor's 100 acres to go to son **John Brizendine**.
Leverett 100 acres to go to son **Francis Brizendine**.
A negro, Nell, to go to son **Isaac Brizendine**.
The balance of the estate was to be equally divided among his children. The witnesses were **Benja. Fisher**, **William "X" Harmer** and **Charles "H" Dobbyns**.

1744 **John Williamson's** will was proved in court. Legatees were sons **Thomas**, **John**, **Henry** and **William**, **Katherine** the wife of **Edward Taylor**, **Susanna** the wife of **John Rodding**, and son **Leonard**.[43]

1745 **Ann Cox** widow and **John Cox** to **Thomas Cox** for £4, 30 acres, being part of 100 acres where **Ann Cox** and **John Cox** now live. Adjoining property owners were **Thomas Kidd**, **John Brizendine**, and **Thomas Cox** (formerly owned by **William Fitzjeffries**). Witnesses were **Thomas Barker**, **Robert "R" Acres** and **Ann "X" Cox Junr**.[44]

1753 **Thomas Kidd** of Edgecombe County, North Carolina, appointed **William Upshaw Davis** power of attorney regarding property he had in Middlesex County, Virginia. The property

[38] *Virginia, Essex County, Wills, Book 6*, page 150, FHL microfilm #007645971, image 158 of 588.
[39] *Virginia, Essex County, Church Records, Vestry Book, South Farnum Parish, 1739-1779*, page 28, FHL microfilm #007898793, image 19 of 81.
[40] *Virginia, Essex County, Deeds, Book 23*, page 45, FHL microfilm #007645204, image 282 of 422.
[41] *Virginia, Essex County, Church Records, Vestry Book, South Farnum Parish, 1739-1779*, page 29, FHL microfilm #007898793, image 20 of 81.
[42] *Virginia, Essex County, Wills, Book 7,* page 129, FHL microfilm #007644501, image 78 of 286.
[43] *Virginia, Essex County, Wills, Book 7*, page 256, FHL microfilm #007645971, image 445 of 588.
[44] *Virginia, Essex County, Deeds, Book 24*, page 12, FHL microfilm #007644509, image 29 of 458.

was the subject of a suit in Middlesex County against his "uncle **John Kidd** & cousin **William Kidd**" and **William Williamson**."[45]

1761 **William Williamson** of Middlesex County and **Ann** his wife (deceased), and **John Williamson Junior** and **Alice**, his wife and **John Williamson the younger** of Essex County sold to **John Neal**. This deed establishes that **William Brizendine's** daughters, **Ann** and **Alice**, married respectively **William Williamson** and **John Williamson, Junior**.[46]

Earlier work by the author shows that there was only one John Williamson, Junior living in Essex County at this time.[47]

1762 **Isaac Brizendine** of Essex County sold to **Francis Brizendine** of the same place 50 acres that adjoined **John O'Neale**, **Thomas Bush**, **Andrew Allen**, **Thomas Dobbyns** deceased and **Francis Brizendine**. The property is where **Isaac** and his wife **Anne** were living at the time, and which he had purchased from **William Cole**. Witnesses were **John Vass**, **Drury Dobbyns** and **John Brizendine**.[48]

[45] *Virginia, Essex County, Deeds, Book 26*, page 219, FHL microfilm #004098122, image 125 of 425.
[46] *Virginia, Essex County, Deeds, Book 29*, page 54, FHL microfilm #007823169, image 42 of 196.
[47] *The Roddens of Essex County, Virginia Colony and Mecklenburg County, North Carolina* by Steve Malone (2023).
[48] *Virginia, Essex County, Deeds, Book 29*, page 158, FHL microfilm #007823169, image 94 of 196.

Chapter 3: Timeline Analysis

Primogeniture in Colonial Virginia meant that for intestate estates (those not governed by a will), the oldest son would inherit the father's entire estate. This concept was based on English common law, and the intent was that once the father died, the eldest son would assume the role of family patriarch. Primogeniture makes it possible to logically deduce how the early Brizendines of Essex County were related.

Richard Brizendine, Senior

What is abundantly clear is that in 1691 **Richard Brizendine** was the first of his family found in records of Old Rappahannock County, Virginia Colony (which one year later would become Essex County). He likely was a young man about to make his mark on the world, and not a man of nearly sixty years who left the comforts of England, risked the hazards of crossing the Atlantic Ocean, and decided to plop down in the wilds of the Virginia frontier. No other **Brizendines** are found in records of Virginia Colony before 1691, so any claim to the contrary is spurious and clearly not based upon fact. As already stated, there is direct evidence that **Richard** died on 24 Jun 1694 and that his wife's name was **Mary**.

The one clue to **Mary's** maiden name is that **Thomas Watkins** was the godfather of her son **William**. And **John Watkins** witnessed the dowry gift for **William's** marriage to **Ann Akers**.

If **Mary** was a **Watkins**, the odds are high that their marriage took place in Old Rappahannock County, where the **Watkins** (**Henry** and **Thomas**) first show up in records around 1684/1685, not long before **Mary's** first son was born.

William Brizendine

1702 is the first mention of **Will Brizendine**, the godson of **Thomas Watkins**. If he was 16 years old, he was born in 1686, just five years before the first hint of **Richard Brizendine, Senior** in Virginia Colony.

No Brizendine appeared on the 1704 quit rents roll for Essex County. **Richard Brizendine, Senior** had died by then, so this suggests that his son **William** was not yet old enough to be responsible for paying taxes on his property. That means he was under 21 years of age, and thus born no sooner than 1683.

So, **William Brizendine** was born between 1683 and 1686. It is more likely that his uncle's gift in 1702 was triggered by his 16th birthday, and thus 1686 is most likely the year that he was born.

In 1708, **William Brizendine** shows up in court records, and that same year we find his mark and the mark of **Mary "M" Brizendine** on what appears to be the dowry of his bride, **Anne Acres**, daughter of **James Acres**. It appears that **Mary** was **William's** mother, and was signing in lieu of her long-deceased husband. Also signing as a witness was **John Watkins**.

In 1715, **William Brizendine** appeared on the quit rents roll, the only **Brizendine** listed. Since there is no record up to this time that he owned any property, this suggests that he was living on his father's land.

In 1717, **Major Brizendine** is mentioned in the estate of **Colonel Francis Gouldware**, suggesting that **William**, at age 30, was an officer in the local militia.

In 1728, **William Brizendine** purchased his only property from **John Williamson**, who we will later learn was the father-in-law of one of his daughters, and the uncle-in-law to the other. The two daughters would have been close to coming of age after William's 20 years of marriage.

William Brizendine died in March 1729. His wife **Anne** was executrix and **Richard Brizendine** was a witness. The possibility exists that **Richard** was **William's** son, but it's more likely they were brothers, as will soon be explained.

It's not until 1761 when we get clear proof of two of William's children, where a deed states that **Ann Brizendine** was the wife of **John Williamson, Junior**, and **Alice Brizendine** (deceased at that time) was the wife of **William Williamson**. In that deed, the two sister's husbands signed over their 50 acres, being "two parts of one hundred & fifty acres which William Brizendine decd, father of Ann Williamson, the late wife of William Williamson & Alice Williamson, wife of John Williamson Jr. aforesaid died possessed of." [If 50 acres is two parts of 150 acres, then 25 acres equals one part. 150 divided by 25 acres = six shares, meaning there were six children who survived their father.]

There is no record of **William Brizendine** ever purchasing or being gifted a 150-acre property, and his father died intestate. Thus, under primogeniture, his father's entire estate would have devolved to him. There is no evidence of what became of the estate of **Richard Brizendine, Senior**, and no evidence of how **William Brizendine** came to possess this 150 acres. The disposition of the 100-acre property he had purchased has not been found. The most logical conclusion is that the 150 acres was that property, plus Richard's 1691 property (which was of unknown size, but presumably 50 acres).

That means that **William Brizendine** had four other children (corresponding to the remaining 4/6ths interests in the property) who are not accounted for. Since a son did not inherit the entirety of his estate under primogeniture, it clearly implies that all of his children were daughters.

Ann (Akers) Brizendine

We found clear evidence that **William Brizendine's** wife, **Ann Akers**, was the daughter of **James Akers**. We've already established that she married in 1708, and we've inferred that she was born about 1690. During 21 years of marriage to **William**, she had at least six children who survived their father, all of whom were females. What happened to her after **William** died in 1729?

It would appear that **Ann Akers** had married an unknown **Davis** some time between 1729, when her first husband died, and 1738, when she made her will.

In 1738, **Anne Davis** wrote her will, naming as her heirs **Mary Brizendine** (who was to manage her estate) and minors **Franks**, **Elsa** and **Rachel**, surname not given. That means **Mary** was at least 18 years old and was thus born by 1720. The will suggests that **Mr. Davis** had died, likely having provided for any of his children by any earlier marriage. Thus, the three minors in the will were likely by **Ann's** first marriage, and thus probably all **Brizendines**. If **Franks** was a female, then the four heirs in her will were **William Brizendine's** remaining four daughters. It would seem that **Ann** and **Alice** were his two older daughters, and that they had received their share of **Ann's** estate prior to the will being written.

Since **Richard Brizendine, Junior** had a wife named **Mary**, it's possible to leap to the false conclusion that **Anne's** daughter **Mary Brizendine** was his wife.

Procession records in 1739 and 1743 help to prove that **Mary** was **William Brizendine's** daughter and not the wife of **Richard Brizendine, Junior**. Processioning is the process of having neighbors periodically acknowledge shared property boundaries. Most records call out those who reviewed the property lines, and often state who the adjacent property owners were. In those years, **Mary Brizendine's** property lines were processioned, showing that **John Williamson, Junior** (husband of **Alice Brizendine**) owned property abutting hers. Thus, they were almost certainly two sisters living as neighbors on their father's former property.

Richard Brizendine, Junior was alive at those times and his property shows up in procession records. If **Mary** was his wife, the record would have reflected it was HIS property being processioned, not his wife's. **Mary** was very clearly **William Brizendine's** daughter.

Thus, it appears that **Mary** was a spinster. At least until 1743, when she was last found in public records. It seems likely she was living upon her 1/6th of her father's estate in 1743, thus half of his estate of real property is accounted for.

The other three daughters all survived to inherit their 1/6th shares, but finding deeds that prove that is greatly hampered by not knowing the identities of their husbands. And it's likely that their properties could have been commingled with other properties their husbands owned, further complicating any effort to track down the three remaining shares of **William's** estate.

Richard Brizendine, Junior

In 1718, a new **Richard Brizendine** first appeared in Essex County records. And in 1721 we learn that his wife's name was **Mary**, suggesting that he married between those two years. That would mean that, if the first record was when he came of age, he was born by 1697. Which is before **William's** marriage, so he must be **Richard Brizendine, Junior,** the second son of the immigrant, **Richard Brizendine, Senior**. The death of **Senior** in 1694 would mean that **Junior** was born no later than early 1695, and likely a bit sooner. Additionally, if **Junior** had been **William's** son, the law of primogeniture would have meant that he would have inherited **William's** entire estate. And very clearly, that did not happen.

In 1722, **Richard Brizendine (Junior)** purchased his first property (40 acres). **Richard** buys an additional property in 1730, only to sell it two years later. Two years after that, he sold his original 40-acre property as well.

In 1741 and 1742 **Richard Brizendine** had purchased two separate 100-acre properties.

Richard Brizendine died in 1744, leaving a will. It named sons **John**, **Francis** and **Isaac**. The 1741 and 1742 properties went to **John** and **Francis**. **Isaac** got a slave named Nell. Also noted in his will was "his loving wife," who was named executrix. When the will was proven her given name was revealed to have been **Elizabeth**, and thus she was almost certainly not his original wife.

Chapter 4: Descendants

The 1761 deed from two of **William Brizendine's** daughters, and the subsequent interpretation that William had no sons who survived him, means that the only Brizendine males found in Essex County records after that date were **Richard Brizendine, Junior's** sons **John**, **Francis** and **Isaac**. The first two men left wills naming their heirs, and the heirs of **Isaac** are named in an 1826 chancery suit. Thus, for the purposes of this research, there is no need for a detailed timeline of facts to wrap things up. Such a timeline could be immensely helpful in clarifying the years of birth for the many grandchildren of **Richard Brizendine, Junior**, but that is simply well beyond the intended scope of this effort.

Many facts of the previous section are summarized here, together with newly cited facts that help to paint a fairly clear picture of **Richard Brizendine, Senior's** grandchildren and great grandchildren by his two sons.

In the following, those who served during the Revolutionary War are shown in **red type**. Their War pension applications are provided in the appendix that follows this section. Those who have successfully traced their lineage back to a son of **Richard Brizendine, Junior** are typically based upon the pension applications of **Reuben**, **Bartlett**, **Leroy** or **William Brizendine**. Detailed primary records research would likely reveal the connections to other sons or daughters of **John**, **Francis** and **Isaac Brizendine**. The unique given names of several of their sons would likely facilitate such an effort.

1. **Richard Brizendine, Senior**. He was born by 1666, and died 24 Jun 1694 in Essex County, Virginia. His wife was named **Mary** (**Watkins**?).
    a. **Major William Brizendine**. He was born 1686, likely in Essex County, Virginia, and died Mar 1729 in Essex County. He married **Anne Akers** in 1708.
        i. **Mary Brizendine**.
        ii. **Alice Brizendine**, born , died. She married **John Williamson, Junior** (son of John Williamson, Senior).[49]
            1. **Ann Williamson**. She married **John Davis**.
            2. **Abner Williamson**.
            3. **Rachel Williamson**. She married **John Brizendine** (see 1.b.iii.8).[50]
                a. **Ludy Brizendine**.
            4. **Frances Williamson**. She married **Mr. Crain**.
        iii. **Ann Brizendine**, born, died by 1761. She married **William Williamson** (NOT the son of John Williamson, Senior or brother of John Williamson, Junior).
            1. **John Williamson, the Younger**.

[49] *Virginia, Essex County, Wills, Book 14*, page 250, FHL microfilm #007644540 image 265 of 376.
[50] *Virginia, Essex County, Guardianships, 1761-1796*, page 198, FHL microfilm #008141172, image 111 of 128.

iv. **Franks Brizendine**?.
v. **Elsa Brizendine**?
vi. **Rachel Brizendine**?

b. **Richard Brizendine, Junior**. He was born by 1695 (if his mother was pregnant when his father died), and died 17 Apr 1744. He lived his entire life in Essex County, Virginia. His wife was **Mary** when he first wed (around 1718-1721), but was **Elizabeth** when he died more than 20 years later . Elizabeth first shows up in records in 1734, after Richard's three sons were born. Since his sons were all born not long after **Mary** appeared in records, it suggests that **Mary** was their mother. The children named in his will were:

i. **John Brizendine**,[51] born about 1723, died 1780. He married **Susannah Roberts**.[52]

1. **Nana Brizendine**.
2. **Richard Brizendine**. He married **Elizabeth**.
3. **Abner Brizendine**. He died without any children.
4. **Reubin Brizendine**, born about 1761, died after 1843. In 1832 he was living in Charlotte County, Virginia.
5. **Bartlett Brizendine**, b. 1762. He married **Nancy** in March 1798. In 1821, he was living in Essex County, Virginia. His widow and daughters likely never left there.
    a. **Susan Brizendine**.
    b. **Mary Ann Brizendine**.

ii. **Francis Brizendine, Senior**, d. August 1776 in Essex County, Virginia.[53] His wife's name was **Elizabeth**, who died in Jun 1794 in Essex County. [54]

1. **Francis Brizendine, Junior**.
2. **Thomas Brizendine**, died 1802. He married **Martha**.[55]
    a. **Tamizen Brizendine**.
    b. **Ewin Brizendine**.
    c. **Susanna Brizendine**.
    d. **Travis Brizendine**.
    e. **Elizabeth Brizendine**.
3. **Randall/Randolph Brizendine**, died in May 1817. He married **Caty**.[56]
    a. **Henry Brizendine**.
    b. **Thomas Brizendine**.
    c. **John Brizendine**. He died before 1817. He married **Patsy**.
        i. **Churchill Brizendine**.

[51] *Virginia, Essex County, Wills, Book 13*, page 314, FHL microfilm #007645974, image 174 of 660.
[52] *Virginia, Essex County, Deeds, Book 23*, page 136, FHL microfilm #007645204, image 323 of 424.
[53] *Virginia, Essex County, Wills, Book 13*, page 45, FHL microfilm #007645974, image 38 of 660.
[54] *Virginia, Essex County, Wills, Book 15*, page 102, FHL microfilm #007644541, image 112 of 571.
[55] *Virginia, Essex County, Wills, Book 16*, page 149, FHL microfilm #007644542 image 161 of 460.
[56] *Virginia, Essex County, Wills, Book 18*, page 388, FHL microfilm #007645976, image 207 of 287.

4. **Armistead Brizendine**. He married **Salley**. In 1797, they were living in King and Queen County, Virginia.
5. **Susanna Brizendine**. She married **James Callicote**, and **Mr. Broocke**.
6. **Mary Brizendine**. She married **Thomas Bush**.
7. **Unknown Brizendine**. He married **Dinah/Diana**, who was married to **William Dunn**, and she then married **Mr. Chaney**.

iii. **Isaac Brizendine, Senior**, died by August 1797 in Essex County, Virginia.[57]

1. **William Brizendine, Senior**, born 1743, died Jun 1834. He married **Mary Dupree** in 1764 in Lunenburg County, Virginia.[58] He moved to Franklin County, Virginia around 1806, and was living there in 1832 when he applied for a pension.
    a. **William Brizendine, Junior**.
2. **Leroy Brizendine**, born 26 May 1761, died 23 Mar 1839 in Sumner County, Tennessee. He married **Lucy Barnes**. **Leroy** had lived for a time in Franklin County, Virginia, having moved there around 1806.[59]
    a. **Young P. Brizendine**.
    b. **James W. Brizendine**.
3. **Richard Brizendine**.
4. **Phoebe Brizendine**. She married **John Haines**.
5. **Jane Brizendine**. She married **William Tisdale**.
6. **Elizabeth Brizendine**. She married **John Ford**.
7. **Isaac Brizendine, Junior**.
8. **John Brizendine**. He died before 1793. He married **Rachel Williamson**. See 1.a.ii.3 for his son.
9. **Joshua Brizendine**. He had died prior to 1826, as his daughter was his only surviving heir at that time.
    a. **Jane Brizendine**.
10. **Susan Brizendine**.
11. **Nancy Brizendine**.
12. **Young Brizendine**. In 1825 or 1826, he was one of the acting magistrates in Rutherford County, North Carolina.[60]

Filling in the blanks in the above is left to the reader. Unfortunately, there are no 1790 and 1800 Census records for Essex County, Virginia. But there are tax lists beginning in 1782, which can help fill in some gaps. And as you can see from the preceding research, there is a wealth of

[57] *Virginia, Charlotte County, Chancery Court Cases*, Index #1826-036, https://www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/full_case_detail.asp?CFN=037-1826-036#img, image 2 of 36.
[58] *Membership Roster and Soldiers, 1970-1984* by Daughters of the American Revolution, Tennessee Socierty (1985), page 173.
[59] *Descendants of Leroy and Lucy Barnes Brizendine* by Danene Vincent (1998), accessed 17 Nov 2004.
[60] *https://revwarapps.org/r2540.pdf*, pension application of William Crowder. Accessed 17 Nov 2024.

deed, probate and court records in Essex County that can likely provide those answers, and more, to anyone willing to dig deep, and employ basic logic where necessary.

Early Census records are missing for counties in Virginia and Tennessee, which complicates connecting Brizendines found in 1820 and later Census records to the known children of **John**, **Francis** and **Isaac Brizendine** who are found in records outside of Essex County, Virginia.

Some of the grandchildren of **Richard Brizendine, Junior** moved to Charlotte or Franklin County, Virginia. In Charlotte County, tax records exist from 1782. In Franklin County, tax records start in 1786. Such records can often be useful in spotting sons who have just come of age - their father is taxed for land and pays the poll, they are listed immediately before or after and only pay the poll tax.

Some of **Isaac Brizendine's** children ended up in Sumner County, Tennessee, where they had actually received Kentucky land grants (it would be interesting to research why this is). The thing of interest about Kentucky land grants are the surveys of the property (which can be obtained from the Kentucky Secretary of State's Office), as the chain carriers were often related to the property owner. This can be an invaluable source of clues to perhaps learn who Isaac's daughters had married, for instance.

The first **Brizendine** (with that spelling) in General Land Office records (where land patents in states under the Public Land Survey System are received directly from the Federal Government) appears in 1837. Many of those early land records were based upon military warrants for service during the War of 1812 (for which they received bounty land). This military service can potentially help to prove that a Brizendine out west was related to Brizendines in Tennessee or Virginia. Like Revolutionary War pensions, an application was also required to get this land, and at times the applications can provide important details about the applicant or his relatives. Others who claimed land in the same or adjoining sections of land were often family members, so they provide another potential source of clues to possible close relatives or in-laws.

Chapter 5: Findings

At this point it is worth listing what this research has achieved that other earlier and less formal efforts had not.

1. The wife of **William Brizendine** has been clearly identified as **Anne Akers**, daughter of **James** and **Mary** (**MNU**) **Acres**.
2. It has been shown that **Richard Brizendine, Senior's** wife remained unmarried and was alive until at least 1708. What became of her after that time is unknown.
3. The widow **Anne Davis** was found to have been **Anne** (**Akers**) **Brizendine**, the widow of **William Brizendine**.
4. **Mary Brizendine**, daughter of **Anne Davis**, was found to have been an unmarried daughter of **William Brizendine**.
5. No trace of **Mary Brizendine** was found after her mother's death, suggesting that she either married or died soon after.
6. **Richard Brizendine, Senior** was found to have been the father of **William Brizendine** and **Richard Brizendine, Junior**.
7. **William Brizendine** was found to have been the father of six daughters: there is direct evidence that his daughters **Ann** and **Alice** together inherited 2/6ths of his estate, and it implies that the remaining 4/6th went to four other daughters.
8. **Ann (Akers) Brizendine Davis'** daughters **Mary Brizendine**, **Franks**, **Elsa** and **Rachel** were likely the missing daughters of **William Brizendine**.
9. All **Brizendines** found in records of Essex County, Virginia after **William Brizendine's** death in 1729 were very clearly descended from sons of **Richard Brizendine, Junior**.
10. It was found that **Richard Brizendine, Junior's** first wife was named **Mary**, and she was almost certainly the mother of his three sons.
11. Shortly before **Richard Brizendine, Junior's** death in 1744, a wife named **Elizabeth** first appeared in public records.
12. **Richard Brizendine, Senior's** wife **Mary** may have been a **Watkins**.

Chapter 6: Conclusions

Richard Brizendine, Senior likely arrived in Old Rapphannock County, Virginia Colony as a young man, probably within at most several years of when he first appears there in 1691. He was perhaps there by 1685 or so.

Most likely, Richard married a local woman, as the majority of immigrants to the Colony of Virginia were indentured servants. Since there is no record of his completing an indenture in Old Rappahannock County, it is possible that he had done so elsewhere, in a county where such records are no longer extant.

There seems to be a gap of several years between the ages of Richard Brizendine's two sons, suggesting that there may have been other children. These were either daughters, for whom there are no clues to whom they married, or they had died young.

William Brizendine was the eldest son of Richard Brizendine, Senior. He very clearly married Anne, daughter of James and Mary Acres. There is direct evidence of the identities of two of his daughters: Ann and Alice. It's likely that his other four daughters were named in his widow's will: Mary, Franks, Elsa and Rachel.

Richard Brizendine, Junior appears to have been Senior's youngest child, likely having been born around the time of his father's death.

Appendix: Brizendines in the Revolutionary War

The following information of the **Brizendine's** service during the Revolutionary War, mainly from Revolutionary War pension applications, is included here because they provide key firsthand factual information that can rarely be found elsewhere. And learning about individuals can make the picture of the entire family much clearer.

Fortunately, the given names of the four men that follow are unique among **Richard Brizendine, Junior's** grandsons, leaving no doubt who their fathers were.

The pension applications that follow state the following about these four men:

1. **Bartlett Brizendine** was living in Essex County, Virginia in 1821.
2. **Leroy Brizendine** was living in Sumner County, Tennessee in 1832, and that he had moved there 11 or 12 years prior to his death in 1839 (he arrived around 1827 or 1828).
3. **Reubin Brizendine** was living in Charlotte County, Virginia in 1832.
4. **William Brizendine** was living in Franklin County, Virginia in 1832, where he had resided since 1806.

Vital statistics and relationships noted in the pension applications that follow are underlined to make them easier to find.

Bartlett Brizendine[61]

Pension Application of Bartlett Brizendine R1225
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

"*Virginia Essex County Sct.*
"On this [?] day of March 1821 personally appeared in open court, being a court of record for the said County of Essex ***Bartlet Brizindine*** *aged fifty [illegible] years,[62] resident of Essex County who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary War as follows That he belonged to the Continental Establishment in the Revolutionary War, that he enlisted in the fall of 1780; that he was commanded by* ***Capt Allen*** *& marched to chesterfield Court House, and then was attached to* ***Capt. Scotts*** *[Joseph Scott's] Company & commanded by him, & was sent to* ***Col. Davis*** *[sic: William Davies] to join* ***Greene's*** *Army & that he was in the battle at Guilford Court House [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781], & then in the battle at Eutaw Springs [SC, 8 Sep] & at the Siege of 96 [Ninety Six SC, 22 May - 19 Jun 1781] & that he was lawfully discharged at Salsborough Court House [sic: Salisbury NC] & has since that time lost his discharge And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18 day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain person engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War" passed on the 18 day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed, to Wit – 1 Cow & Calf, 1 Sow and Shoats, 1 Set of Knives & forks, 6 plates, 1 1 Dutch oven, [one illegible item], 4 [illegible] chairs, 1 Square table, 1 set [illegible], 1 washing tub & [illegible], 1 brine tub.* ***Bartlet*** *hisXmark* ***Brizindine***

"Essex County to wit this day personally appeared before me a justice of the peace for Said County, ***Spencer Clark*** *[pension application W2529] of Meddlesex County, and made oath that* ***Bartlett Brizendine*** *served eighteen months in the second Virginia detatchment under the Command of General* ***Nathaneal Green*** *[sic: Nathanael Greene] (which eighteen munts wize the turm of his Survese) and wize discharged honorably from the said detatchment on the 17 day of January 1782 in the towne of Salsburry in the State of North Carolina*

[61] *U.S., Revolutionary War Pension Applications*, Bartlett Brizendine, R1225, https://revwarapps.org/r1225.pdf.
[62] This age is contradicted in *Report from the Secretary of War, in Obedience to Resolutions of the Senate of the 5th and 30th of June, 1834, and the 3d of March, 1835 In Relation to the Pension Establishment of the United States, Volume 2*, Virginia Pension Roll, page 54 where it is stated that Barlett served in the North Carolina Line and in 1823 was age 72 (thus born 1751).

*by **John anderson Cap**. **S. Snead maj. Commdn**. [Smith Snead, Major Commandant] Given under my hand this 24 day of August 1822 **Joseph Janey***

"Virginia Essex County Sct.
*"On this 17 day of March 1823 personally appeared in open court, being a court of record for the county, aforesaid **Bartlett Brizendine** a resident in said County, aged sixty one years, who, being first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on his oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the provisions made by the acts of congress of the 18 March 1818, and the 1 May 1820, that he, the said Brizendine enlisted for the term of eighteen months about the month of July in the year 1780 in the state of Virginia, under **Capt Allen**, was marched to Chesterfield C House, and there entered **Capt Scott's** Company which is believed to have belonged to **Col Davis** Regiment, in the Virginia line, on Continental establishment; was marched to Petersburg and attached to **Capt John Anderson's** company of which **S. Snead** or **Sneed** was the Major Commandant, was then marched to South Carolina, and the detachment was commanded by **Col [John] Green** or **Col. [Samuel] Hawes** of the Virginia line, on Continental establishment, that he was discharged from the service by **Capt John Anderson**, at Salisbury in NorthCarolina, in the month of January 1782, and that he was in the battles of Guilford Court House and of Eutaw, and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said service except the certificate hereto annexed. — And in pursuance of the act of the 1 of May 1820, I do solemnly swear … [oath identical to st the one in the previous declaration] one sow and pigs, one sett of knives and forks, six plates, one Dutch oven, one pot and hooks, four plug chairs, one square table, one set of razors, one washing tub and pail, one bran tub & that he has moreover three children the eldest of whom is seven years of age. **Bartlett** HisXmark **Brizendine**"*

NOTES:
*A size roll compiled at Chesterfield Courthouse after1 Sep 1780 includes the following: **Bartley Brizendine**/ age 18/ height 5' 9"/ farmer/ born and residing in Essex County/ light-brown hair/ gray eyes/ fair complexion/ enlisted 11 Sep 1780 for 18 months.*

*On 29 June 1843 **Nancy Brizendine**, 75, applied for a pension stating that she married **Bartlett Brizendine** in March 1798, and he died 19 Nov 1836. The marriage date after 1794 rendered her ineligible for a pension.*

*On 20 Oct 1852 **Susan Brizendine** and **Mary Ann Brizendine** assigned power of attorney to obtain any benefits due for the services of their father.*

Bartlett Brizendine gave affidavits in support of several of his fellow comrades in their applications for pensions or bounty land, the latest of which was in 1836.[63]

[63] https://revwarapps.org/blwt2187-100.pdf, application of Barker Minter. Accessed 17 Nov 2024.

Leroy Brizendine[64]

At Essex County Court in April 1786 a certificate by William Gatewood was recorded that stated that Isaac Brizendine had served fifteen days in the militia in April 1785. Like 60% of the enlistees, he was a farmer.[65]

Pension Application of Leroy Brizendine S1941
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris:

> *"State of Tennessee }*
> *"S.S. Sumner County }*
> *"On this 24 day of Augst 1832 personally appeared in open court before* ***Thomas Anderson Wm Edwards*** *and* ***John L Swaney*** *[page torn] Court of pleas and quarter sessions of said County now sitting* ***Leroy Brizendine*** *aged seventy one years the 26 day of May last having a record of my age in my possession – who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act the act of Congress passed June 7 1832 that he entered the service of the united states under the following named officers and served as herein stated. I was born in the State of Virginia and resided with my father in the County of Luningburg [sic: Lunenburg] in s'd. state in 1780 and in the summer of the year 1780 – he does not recollect the month he volunteered for six months his services in the war under* ***Captain Peter Stokes*** *–* ***Flora Smiden*** *was Leutenant and* ***Horatio Walker*** *was ensign. this was a company of volunteer horse that was raised to opperate chiefly against the tories in North Carolina – we found our horses and were mounted in Lunengburg and marched to Hillsborough North Carolina we got a suply of arms there we marched with our pilot upon Broad [?: page torn] and serve in the heart of the Tories we scoured that country and captured maney Tories whiped some left some tied to trees – and carried twenty or twenty five to Hillsborough jail. we continued doing our duty in North Carolina in the fall of 1780 we marched back and just before Christmas we having served out our six months and I was dismissed no writen discharge was given. I returned to Lunengburg and just before Christmas 1780 It came to my number to serve a three months tour in the malitia I entered the service immediatly under* ***Captain Frank Degraftenreed*** *[Francis DeGraffenfied].* ***Obey Clay*** *[Obia Clay] was Leutenant and* ***Alexander Rudder*** *was ensign. we marched to Portsmouth and joined head quarters under* ***Gen'l. Malingburg*** *[sic: Peter Muhlenberg] – and we were attached to a regment commanded by* ***Colo Marrywethers*** *[sic: Thomas Meriwether] he had been a regular officer and was sent there to command the malitia. we lay there and about there and on the dismal swamps and captured some scouting parties & had some skirmishes till our term of service expired & I was discharged. I*

[64] *U.S., Revolutionary War Pension Applications*, Leroy Brizendine, S1941, https://revwarapps.org/s1941.pdf.
[65] *Virginia, Essex County, Court Orders, Book 30*, page 183, FHL microfilm #008358858, image 214 of 429.

returned home this was after the battle of Gilford [sic: Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] as I recollect that when this battle was fought I was in the the service about Portsmouth & the dismal swamps. – so soon as I got home ***Wallis*** *[sic: Cornwallis, early May 1781] was then going up James River and I volunteered in the infantry under* ***Capt William Stokes*** *– which was he thinks in April 1781.* ***Jesse Johnson*** *was Luitenant and the other officers he does not recollect – [illegible word] were not attached immediatly to any regment. Our Companey was engaged in collecting beeves we collected three droves – we carried one drove to Hog Iland [Hog Island on James River in Surry County] and* ***Corn Wallis*** *took the greater part of them – and the American armey were station at Petersburg under* ***Gen'l. Washington*** *[arrived in Virginia 14 Sep] – and there we carried a drove for his armey and the third drove we carried to Little York during the seige which was in the fall of 1781 [28 Sep - 19 Oct]. – and I and my company continued doing service in the armey of* ***Gen'l. Washington*** *and I was at York at the time of* ***Corn Wallis*** *surrendered himself and armey – the fighting appeared to be over and I was discharged in October 1781 – The discharge was general to his companey my service in the revolutionary war must have been about fifteen or sixteen months. He hereby relinquishes all claims to a pension except the present. He further states that he has no documentary evidence of his service but expects his name may be found on the Virginia rolls of her state troops. neither does he know of any person whose testimoney he can procure who can testify to hisservice – and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. [signed]* ***Leroy Brizendine***

"NOTE: On 1 Apr 1839 ***Lucy Brizendine*** *stated that her husband,* ***Leroy Brizendine****, had lived in Sumner County for 11 or 12 years before his death, and that before then he had lived in Franklin County VA. She appointed her son,* ***Young P. Brizendine****, as her attorney to obtain the uncollected portion of her husband's pension up to his death on 23 Mar 1839. This document was witnessed by* ***James W. Brizendine*** *and* ***Pamelia****[?]* ***Brizendine****."*

Reuben Brizendine[66]

Pension Application of Reubin Brizendine S6754
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

"Charlotte County
"State of Virginia
"On this 3 Day of September Eighteen hundred and thirty two personally appeared in open Court before [blank] the Court of said County and State now sitting ***Reubin Brizendine*** *a resident of the County of Charlotte and State of Virginia of the age of Seventy or Seventy one years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7 1832 That he entered the service of the united States the 22 day of March 1781 and served Eighteen months under the following named officers marched from Essex County State of Virginia under* ***William Wyatt*** *to Chesterfield Barrox then commanded by* ***Capt. Kilpatrick*** *[sic: Abraham Kirkpatrick]* ***Lieutenant Rob't Craddock*** *[Robert Craddock] from Amelia County who served with me the whole 18 months which company with others* ***Capt. Scott****,* ***Capt. Gambling****,* ***Capt. Parker****,* ***Capt. Martin*** *&* ***Capt. Moss*** *were attached to* ***Colo Hawe's*** *[Samuel Hawes's] detachment from Chesterfield Barox we were forced to retreat [late Apr 1781] to Cartersville on James River from thence to Richmond stayed there but a few days and from thence to Pointy Fork on James River [sic: Point of Fork at the confluence with Rivanna River, about 28 May] under the Command of* ***General Steuben*** *from thence to north river in Fluvanna County State of Virginia at Old* ***Mr. Rosses*** *from thence we were forced to retreat to Halifax County State of Virginia we were then ordered by an express from* ***General Washington*** *to march to old Williamsburg Town and from thence to a place called Springfield about three miles below at that place* ***General Washington*** *came to our Camp and Viewed the armey then were ordered by* ***General Washington*** *to close in upon Little york at which Time* ***Cornwallis*** *Surrendered [19 Oct 1781] and we continued there until the prisoners were marched off by the Militia from thence we marched back to Old Williamsburg again stayed there but a few days from thence we marched to a little Town on the Permenky [sic: Pamunkey] River called new Castle [now Old Church] from thence to Cumberland Barrox at Cumberland Old Court House State of Virginia under the Command of* ***Colo. Febaker*** *[sic: Christian Febiger],* ***Maj'r Finly*** *[sic: Samuel Finley] and* ***Maj'r. Willis*** *there wintered from Cumberland Barax marched under the Command of* ***Colo. [Thomas] Posey*** *to the State of Geogia to a place called Ebenezer on Savannah River at that place* ***General [Anthony] Wayne*** *took Command of the detatchment from thence we marched to one* ***Widow Gibbins*** *in five miles from Savannah Town there we had a battle with the Indians at which time General*

[66] *U.S., Revolutionary War Pension Applications*, Reuben Brizendine, S6754, https://revwarapps.org/s6754.pdf.

*Wayne had his horse shot from under him that same night we killed the **Indian Chief named Sego** [see endnote] from thence we marched to **General Greens** [sic: Nathanael Greene's] armey to a place called ashly Hill [sic: Ashley Hill] in South Carolina then marched in front of **General Greens** armey to a small Branch the distance not recollected there stayed until our 18 months time had expired then marched back in the detachment to Cumberland Barrox and there discharged by **General [Charles] Scott** my discharge I have lost and know of no person in Charlotte County who served in the united States army at that time but will refer to those of Essex County State of Virginia who entered the Service of the united States in the Revolutionary War and served the whole 18 months with me **John Davis**, **Benjamin Roddy** [Benjamin Rodden, pension application R8272], **Benjamin Fisher** [S39520], **Thomas Clark**, **James Brown** & **Jeremiah Moody** I furthermore state that **pay master Jones** give me a warrant for the amount of Interest that was due me on my Wages that amount I received but no part of my Wages no have ever received since he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or anuity except the present and declare that his name is not on the pension Roll of the army of the united States [signed] **Reubin Brizendine**"*

NOTES:
*There was a battle between **Wayne** and the Indians at the **Widow Gibbons's** (Sharon) on 24 May 1782, but the battle in which Wayne's horse was shot from under him and **Chief Emistisiguo** was killed was at Ebenezer on 23 June 1782.*

*A size roll of noncommissioned officers and privates taken at Cumberland Old Courthouse lists **Reubin Brississtin**/ age 23/ height 5' 10"/ brown hair/ grey eyes/ dark complexion/ born and residing in Essex County where he was drafted on 22 Mar 1781 for 18 months. Sized 10 Feb 1782.*

In 1843, Reuben gave an affidavit for Ephraim Elders' bounty land application.[67]

[67] https://revwarapps.org/w7471.pdf, application of Ephraim Elder and Mark More. Accessed 17 Nov 2024.

William Brizendine[68]

In 1782, William Brizendine

Pension Application of William Brizendine
S6752 VA Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 19 Dec 2014.

> *"State of Virginia.*
> *"Franklin County} SS*
> *"On this 7 day of September 1832, personally appeared before me **John W Holland**, a Justice of the peace for said County **William Brizendine Sr** a resident of the County and state aforesaid, aged, Eighty nine years, who being first duly sworn on the holy evangelist of Almighty God, doth on his Oath make the following declaration, in order to Obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832– That he was drafted into the service of the United States in the early part of the year 1780 [sic] in the County of Charlotte, state of Virginia under **Captain Colwell** [probably John Caldwell]. That he march'd with him to Prince Edward Courthouse in the state aforesaid, and was placed under the command of **Major [John] Overstreet**. (Colonel name not recollected) and was under the command of **General [Robert] Lawson** – the British were at that time [spring 1781] ravaging the lower Counties of Virginia and we were marched through different counties, and places, the names of which are not distinctly recollected – for instance we marched to Culpepper [sic: Culpeper] Courthouse in Virginia, where we joined the army commanded by **General [Anthony] Wayne**. We then march'd to Point of Fork on James River [at the confluence with Rivanna River] – from thence to Richmond – from thence to Randolph Old fields (the County not recollected) – lay at that place, until discharged at the end of three months service. Was discharged by **Capt Spencer**. his discharge is lost, or mislaid – Was not in any battle with the enemy- - - Returned to Charlotte, and in a few days, was again drafted under **Capt. Thomas Collier** – that he was placed under the command of **General Lawson** – that he marched to Newsomes springs near James River – at that place he was taken sick, and was with other sick Soldiers, put under **lieutenant Sydner** and remained at that place, until sometime after **Cornwallis** surrendered at Yorktown [19 Oct 1781] – that at that time, he was in the service, something more than three months – but how much more, not recollected – he was discharged, but whether by a verbal or written discharge, he does not recollect — He further states that he was born in Essex County Virginia in the year 1743, as he is informed – that he lived in the County of Charlotte in the time of the American revolution, and that he came to Franklin in the year 1806 where he now resides — That in the whole of the time he was in service was rather more than six months – He hereby relinquishes every claim*

[68] *U.S., Revolutionary War Pension Applications*, William Brizendine, S6752, https://revwarapps.org/s6752.pdf.

*whatever to a pension or annuity, except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any state. Signed **William Brizendine**.*